

# African-American & African Studies

**A**frican-American and African Studies (AAAS) is the exploration of the cultural, social, economic, and political experience of people of African descent in the United States, Africa and its diaspora. The Department of African-American and African Studies is committed to providing students a thorough and unique opportunity to study the black experience from multi- and interdisciplinary approaches. Comprehensive in its approach to the black world, the department offers something for everyone interested in studying the black experience.

## Pursuing African-American & African Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in African-American and African Studies within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor in the Department of African-American and African Studies and the Arts and Sciences.

## African-American & African Studies Requirements

Undergraduate study in the AAAS at Ohio State offers unique opportunities to those students who choose to either major or minor in one of the most diversified programs in any department. Students are able to approach their areas of study from a variety of perspectives as they select courses from a multidisciplinary curriculum.

The total program is designed to acquaint students with the social and intellectual experiences of black people throughout the world and to prepare them for post-graduate study in AAAS and many other academic disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. The department also offers a minor for those students who desire a structured program of study in African-American and African Studies even as they elect to major in other fields. The department seeks to strengthen ties between the university and the black community through its academic programs and events and its service-learning and enrichment activities offered through the AAAS Community Extension Center located in the historic black urban neighborhood on the near east side of Columbus.

## African-American & African Studies Major

The Department of African-American and African Studies offers both a major and a minor in African-American and African Studies.

Students electing the major may choose to specialize in one of the following three areas of concentration:

1. African-American
2. African
3. Diaspora

The major in African American and African Studies consists of 55 credit hours. All majors must take three core courses: AAAS 201, an introduction to the discipline; and two analytic/methodological courses, AAAS 310 and AAAS 545 or 595, preferably in sequence. In addition, majors must complete a minimum of 30 hours in the chosen area of concentration (African-American, African, or Diaspora) and a minimum of 5 hours each in the areas outside the concentration. No single course can be counted more than once to fulfill the requirements of the major.

Moreover, the 55 credit hours must satisfy the distribution requirement: a) 10 to 15 credit hours at the 200-level; b) 10 to 20 credit hours at the 300-level; c) 5 to 15 hours at the 400-level; and d) 15 credit hours at the 500-level or above. All majors must complete a minimum of 25 credit hours at the 400 and 500 levels. A maximum of 10 hours in individual/independent studies and/or outside of the department can count towards the major. African language courses that fulfill the GEC curriculum are offered in Somali, Swahili, and Zulu.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

AAAS offers exciting study and travel abroad programs to Southern Africa and West Africa (up to 13 credit hours) which provide an innovative mix of classroom learning before the trip and additional faculty guided instruction in Africa. In addition, students interested in giving back to the black community may enroll in a service-learning course and earn up to 10 credit hours while volunteering at a local service agency and taking a weekly seminar focused on urban programs and solutions.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

## Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

**For more information, check these web sites:**

**African-American & African Studies:** [aaas.osu.edu](http://aaas.osu.edu)  
**Arts and Humanities:** [artsandhumanities.osu.edu](http://artsandhumanities.osu.edu)  
**Ohio State:** [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

**Admissions:** [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)  
**Multicultural Center:** [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)  
**First Year Experience Program:** [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in African-American and African Studies. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in African-American and African Studies. Consult the departmental web site, [aaas.osu.edu](http://aaas.osu.edu), for details.

### Freshman Year:

Introduction to African-American & African Studies	5
Black Urban Experience	5
Themes in African-American Literature	5
English Composition	5
GEC courses	20
College of Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Electives	5
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>47</b>

### Sophomore Year:

Perspectives on the African Diaspora	5
Major Readings in African-American and African Studies	5
Be-bop to Doo-wop to Hip-Hop	5
GEC courses	25
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>40</b>

### Junior Year:

History of African-Americans in the Age of Slavery	5
History of African-Americans since Emancipation	5
Introduction to African Politics	5
Caribbean Literature in English	5
Community Development-Service Learning	5
GEC courses	20
Electives	15
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>55</b>

### Senior Year:

Theorizing Race	5
Black People in Media Production	5
History of South Africa	5
GEC courses	20
Electives	10
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>45</b>

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities for students to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

## Career Prospects in African-American & African Studies

African-American and African Studies offers students a unique approach to all the major disciplines. As a part of the Arts and Humanities, and hence of the liberal arts, African-American and African Studies seeks to prepare students for further study as well as to prepare them for employment in such areas as state and local government, social agencies, teaching, business, and the arts. Moreover, past graduates have become college and university professors, lawyers, and business executives.

AAAS graduates have chosen such jobs as habilitation supervisor with the Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD, associate publisher with *Writer's Digest*, coordinator of the Ohio Arts Council, and director of the Columbus Urban League.

Beginning salaries depend on industry variables and on candidates' skills and experience. African-American and African studies graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their education.

## African-American & African Studies Minor

The minor in African-American & African Studies consists of 25 credit hours. All minors must take 2 core courses (AAAS 201 and 310) and a minimum of 10 credit hours at the 400- to 500-level. No area of concentration is required to fulfill the minor program. Enrollment at the 600 level and/or independent or group studies will require the permission of the instructor. If students complete the minor, according to guidelines, they need only to file the Minor Program Form with their Arts and Sciences advisors.

## Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options in AAAS by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing the suitability of career fields under consideration. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at [ascareerservices.osu.edu](http://ascareerservices.osu.edu) and [careerconnection.osu.edu](http://careerconnection.osu.edu).

**Revised September 2009.** For the most up-to-date information on the African-American and African studies program, please visit [aaas.osu.edu](http://aaas.osu.edu).

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